

### Office Action Summary

**Application No.**

10/506,441

**Applicant(s)**

BAKE ET AL.

**Examiner**

Tuan T. Dinh

**Art Unit**

2841

**-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --**  
**Period for Reply**

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

**Status**

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 09 November 2007.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

**Disposition of Claims**

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-42 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) 2-22, 24-26, 28, 31, 37 and 42 is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1, 23, 27, 29, 30, 32-36 and 38-41 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

**Application Papers**

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on \_\_\_\_\_ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.  
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).  
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

**Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119**

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some \* c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
  2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_\_.
  3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

\* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

**Attachment(s)**

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08)  
Paper No(s)/Mail Date 09/01/04.
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)  
Paper No(s)/Mail Date \_\_\_\_\_.
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application
- 6) ☐ Other: \_\_\_\_\_.

### DETAILED ACTION

1. Applicant's election with traverse of Specie I (claims 1, 3-24, and 26-42) in the reply filed on 11/09/07 is acknowledged. The traversal is on the ground(s) that "Any of these alternative terminal modules may include contact bank circuits of the type schematically depicted in Figures 1-3. Applicants therefore disagree that there is any unique correlation between or among the terminal modules illustrated in Figures 4-9 and the circuit designs diagramed in Figures 1-3. Applicants also respectfully traverse the specie election requirement on the grounds that a search of the classes appropriate to both the elected and non-elected specie would necessarily include the Patent Office classes in which both would be searched. This is not found persuasive because as described in a specification on pages 18-19 that defined there are fifth embodiments disclosed in the invention, figures 1-3 that describe three embodiments, figure 7 is fourth embodiment, and figures 8-9 is fifth embodiment. Figure 4 is belongs to figure 1, and figures 5-6 are belongs to figures 2-3 respectively. Thus. The search for each of the embodiments would be classified in separate classification, and different field of search.

Claims 3-22, 24-26, 28, 31, 37, 39, and 42 do no read on Specie I (figures 1 and 4), for example, the limitations of "over-voltage protection component or splitter assembly" would be read on figure 8. Therefore, claims 2-22, 24-26, 28, 31, 37,"and 42 are withdrawn from further consideration as being drawn to non-elected subject matter.

The requirement is still deemed proper and is therefore made FINAL.

**Noted:** The phrase of “can be” employed, as requires’ is not understood because the term “can be” recites to a broad range or limitation followed by linking terms and a narrow range or limitation within the broad range or limitation is considered indefinite since the resulting claim does not clearly set forth the metes and bounds of the patent protection desired.

### ***Claim Objections***

2. Claim 1 is objected to because of the following informalities:

Claim 1, line 9, change “the contacts” to - - contacts - - for proper antecedence basis.

Regarding claim 1, line 11, the phrase of “a smaller number of outlet contacts than of tapping contacts” is not understood. What does applicant mean to?

Appropriate correction is required.

### ***Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102***

3. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

(e) the invention was described in (1) an application for patent, published under section 122(b), by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent or (2) a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent, except that an international application filed under the treaty defined in section 351(a) shall have the effects for purposes of this subsection of an application filed in the United States only if the international application designated the United States and was published under Article 21(2) of such treaty in the English language.

4. Claims 1, 23, 27, 29-30, 32-36, 38-39, and 41 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Reimold et al. (U.S. Patent 6,211,582).

As to claims 1, 23, 27, 29, 36, 38, 41, Reimold et al. discloses a terminal, insulating, or supplementary module (41) having a contact bank (54) as shown in figures 8-17 including: a plurality of tapping-contacts (58, 59, see figure 8) directly and permanently electrically connected in the terminated condition of said contact bank (54), a plurality of remote-controllable switches (64, 89) configured to electrical or electro-mechanical, and a control device (90).

As to claims 30, 33-35, Reimold et al. discloses the switch which is a relay or semiconductor device.

### ***Conclusion***

5. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure. Kirma and Longueville et al. disclose related art.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Tuan T. Dinh whose telephone number is 571-272-1929. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Gutierrez F. Diego can be reached on 571-272-2245. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Art Unit: 2841

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

Tuan Dinh  
January 30, 2008.